



City of Seattle
Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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Mayor announces 2006 Small Business Award Winners

SEATTLE – Mayor Greg Nickels announced this year's Mayor's Small Business Awards winners this evening at a celebration at Town Hall.

"Small business owners are my heros – local businesses provide the unique character that makes Seattle such a great place to live," said Mayor Greg Nickels. "They're the economic engines that employ local people and provide services throughout our city."

Every year, ten small businesses in Seattle receive special recognition for their accomplishments through the Mayor's Small Business Awards presented by Wells Fargo. 2006 marks the 22nd year of the Mayor's Small Business Awards program.

Ten winners have been selected on the basis of excellence in management, entrepreneurial spirit, customer service, and community involvement. This year's winners represent a cross-section of Seattle's small businesses and illustrate the diverse nature of small business in the variety of services, locations and strategies for success. To qualify, the business must have no more than 100 employees and gross revenues of less than \$10 million.

Over the last two decades, the awards program has recognized more than 220 small businesses, many of which have gone on to experience significant growth. Past recipients include such companies as: Starbucks Coffee Company (1984), Uwajimaya (1984), Ezell's Fried Chicken (1989), the Dilettante (1990) and City People's Mercantile (1993). Last year's winners included Bailey/Coy Books, Metsker Maps of Seattle and Rainier Valley Chiropractic, PS.

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The eight judges involved in this year's awards included small business owners, previous awards winners and representatives of community development organizations. After a confidential review of the nominations and rounds of deliberation, they selected this year's winners, who were honored at a special reception at Town Hall this evening.

This year's winners of the 2006 Small Business Awards, presented by the City of Seattle and Wells Fargo, are:

BizXchange - Bob Bagga, Chris Haddawy, Raj Kapoor, owners

1100 Olive Way, Suite 1720, Seattle, WA 98101

206-447-9933 www.bizx.com

BizXchange is a business-to-business trade exchange that allows members to buy and sell products and services without using cash. With an original membership of 100 in 2002, there are now approximately 1,100 members trading over \$2.6 million in goods and services each month. Driven by their company core values to "do the right thing, be creative and innovative, exceed expectations and have fun," the company strives to serve, improve and grow its members' businesses and make a difference in its community. BizXchange places high value on recruiting and promoting staff from within the organization, and takes time to foster a culture of fun and interaction among employees.

Gracewinds Perinatal Services, Inc. - Christine C. Wallace, owner

1415 NW 70th Street, Seattle, WA 98117

206-781-9871 www.gracewindsperinatal.com

Gracewinds Perinatal Services strives to enhance the experience of pregnancy and childbirth, and to strengthen families by providing a network of high-quality, related services in one location, building a community of support for women and families. With a provider roster of 38 healthcare professionals, services range from family education, counseling, acupuncture, prenatal yoga, new moms' groups, postpartum fitness, sign language for babies and dads' classes. A newly-opened retail outlet, The Peapod Book and Birth Store, and online store offer additional shopping services to Seattle families.

Great Dog - Leslie Csokasy, Judith Anderson-Wright, owners

11333 Roosevelt Way NE, Seattle, WA 98125

206-526-1101 www.gogreatdog.com

This animal-inspired, people-oriented business was founded with the belief that embracing canine mental health and offering enriching activities would create healthier, happier and better-behaved dogs in Seattle. A thriving multiple service pet care business, it offers dog daycare, a retail store, grooming salon, obedience and training courses, and multiple community service programs. With a history of innovation, exceptional service, extensive community involvement and environmentally safe practices, Great Dog strives to work with governmental entities, its neighbors and even its competitors to ensure that the dog daycare industry is safe and provides a valuable service.

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Laura Bee Designs - Laura Buzard, owner

6418 20th Avenue NW, Seattle, WA 98107
206-789-4044 www.laurabeedesigns.com

Laura Bee Designs is dedicated to creating original, customized handbags and personal accessories, available through both retail and online stores. Customers love to spread the word about the “little purse shop tucked away in Ballard,” and rave about being able to help design their personal purses and meet the people who fabricate their orders. The store doubles as a working studio and offers a distinct shopping experience that is low-pressure, fun, and includes visiting with shop mascot Otis the pug. Laura is very proud of her shop and nurtures her employees’ creativity. She credits Seattle for inspiring her to build her business — “the entrepreneurial spirit of this city is infectious!”

Marjorie - Donna Moodie, owner

2331 Second Avenue, Seattle, WA 98121
206-441-9842 www.trenchtownrocks.com

An intimate restaurant hailed for its funky elegance and eclecticism, marjorie has earned a devoted following for its delicious food, warm and professional service and inviting atmosphere. The restaurant’s name is a tribute to Donna’s mother, whose love of cooking and passion for entertaining inspired her daughter from an early age. Donna’s restaurant reflects her passion, personal taste and philosophy. Her commitment to community involvement, support for local vendors, and reputation as a respectful employer support her desire to be seen as an anchor in the Belltown neighborhood, in which she placed her faith 12 years ago when first establishing in Belltown.

Montessori Garden - Kathleen Wilson, owner

8301 Fifth Avenue NE, Seattle, WA 98115
206-524-8307 www.montessorigarden.net

Kathleen started her preschool over 28 years ago to provide high quality, full-time early childhood education services to support working mothers in the 1970s. In addition to the Montessori method of teaching children academic subjects and creative arts, Kathleen’s well-developed social curriculum promotes good citizenship, conflict resolution and social problem-solving— and has resulted in producing over 1,000 students who have learned the core values of respect, independence, equality and fairness. Kathleen is committed both to her teachers and providing affordable rates, demonstrating passion for the community and working families.

Parsons Public Relations - Joanie Parsons, owner

6517 Phinney Avenue North, Seattle, WA 98103
206-789-5668 www.parsonspr.com

Founded in 1992, Parsons Public Relations is a boutique media relations and marketing firm located in Phinney Ridge, committed to being a force that promotes and communicates on behalf of socially and environmentally conscious companies.

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Joanie and her staff display passion for community, forging partnerships based on respect, enthusiasm and quality work with clients in design, architecture, horticulture and other eco-lifestyle companies and organizations. Striving to make a difference in both the local and global community, and integrating personal values with business practices, passion for their community and clients is evident in everything they do.

SAI Real Estate, Inc. - Deloris Walker, owner

9462 Rainier Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98118
206-721-8000 Email: rea8990@aol.com

A full service real estate brokerage operating in Rainier Beach since 1986, SAI Real Estate, Inc. was started by Deloris with a plan to help support and educate the Rainier Beach community on the benefits and possibilities of property ownership. Self-described as a "Mom and Pop" business that has enjoyed success while supporting its local community, SAI Real Estate has been a valued community partner for over 20 years. The firm has adapted over the years to serve its diverse ethnic clientele, employs neighborhood residents and uses local vendors. SAI Real Estate has been active in supporting programs for area youth, seniors and schools, and has been involved in events that increase community safety.

Second Use Building Materials, Inc. -Michael Armstrong, Patrick Burningham, Dirk Wassink, owners

7953 Second Avenue South, Seattle, WA 98108
206-763-6929 www.seconduse.com

Second Use Building Materials is an innovative business in the emerging salvage / re-use industry, driven by its mission to divert reusable materials from the waste stream; preserve local architectural heritage; provide affordable building materials to the public; and provide a safe work environment and living wages to employees. Founded in 1994 by Roy Hunter, who couldn't stand to see useful materials heading for the dump, the company now operates out of a large warehouse in South Park, diverting 60-100 tons of reusable building materials each month. With its own database system and website inventory, the company now handles twice the volume of material it did in 2000, using the same sized facility and staff.

Soundview Medical Supply - Laura Berry, owner

111 West John Street, #205, Seattle, WA 98119
206-286-7665 www.soundviewmed.com

Soundview Medical Supply services an important growing niche market of seniors, providing senior care products that help elderly adults maintain a level of independence, including durable medical equipment, incontinence supplies and nutritional supplements. Home delivery of supplies is currently provided to over 750 elderly customers each month. The company strives to provide excellent customer service while navigating difficult billing systems, working with seniors who may be suffering from dementia, and caregivers who have limited English skills. Employees are nurtured with an enrichment activities fund, allowing new learning experiences. The company sponsors a number of charity events and organizations supporting their clientele.

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